

Message Text

SECRET

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DRAFTED BY P:DODONOGHUE:CSA

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EXDIS - FOR SULLIVAN FROM HABIB

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, RP

SUBJ: PHILIPPINE BASE NEGOTIATIONS: SECRETARY'S
MEETING WITH ROMULO

1. IT WAS OUR UNDERSTANDING OF PRESIDENT MARCOS' PROPOSAL THAT ROMULO MEETING WITH SECRETARY WOULD BE INFORMAL SESSION DESIGNED TO DISCUSS BASIC ISSUES, PARTICULARLY THE GOP AIDE MEMOIRE, IN ATTEMPT TO REACH BASIS FOR PROCEEDING TO EARLY CONCLUSION OF NEGOTIATIONS. WE DID NOT AND DO NOT ENVISION MAJOR, FORMAL NEGOTIATIONS HERE INVOLVING LARGE NUMBERS.

2. CONSEQUENTLY, I AM DISMAYED AT YOUR DESCRIPTION OF PHILIPPINE PREPARATIONS AND DISPATCH OF LARGE NEGOTIATING SUPPORT GROUP. YOU SHOULD UNDERSTAND AND CONVEY TO GOP THAT WE DO NOT PLAN TO SHIFT FOCUS FOR FORMAL NEGOTIATIONS TO WASHINGTON. THIS IS CONSISTENT WITH WHAT MARCOS DES-
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CRIBED TO YOU AS THE PURPOSE OF THESE HIGH-LEVEL TALKS

BETWEEN THE SECRETARY AND ROMULO. I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT LARGE NUMBERS OF SENIOR SUPPORT STAFF WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN MEETING WITH SECRETARY. HE HAS NOT BEEN TOLD TO EXPECT A FULL-SCALE NEGOTIATION, INVOLVING ALL SORTS OF PEOPLE. WHAT HE WAS LED TO EXPECT BY FILIPINOS WAS AN INFORMAL FACE-TO-FACE DISCUSSION OF CERTAIN BASIC

ISSUES WITH ROMULO AT MARCOS' SPECIFIC REQUEST.

3. FYI: IN LATE SEPTEMBER-EARLY OCTOBER, SECRETARY'S SCHEDULE IS EXTREMELY FULL AND IT WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE FOR LENGTHY DETAILED DISCUSSIONS IN ANY EVENT. AT THIS POINT WE WOULD ENVISION LATE-SEPTEMBER ROMULO MEETING WITH SECRETARY ALONG LINES OUTLINED PARA 1. ON BASIS OF THAT MEETING IT MIGHT WELL BE USEFUL TO SCHEDULE SUBSEQUENT SESSIONS IN EARLY/MID OCTOBER BUT THAT WOULD BE DETERMINED BY RESULTS OF FIRST MEETING. IN ANY EVENT, NONE OF THESE WOULD INVOLVE LARGE NUMBERS. END FYI.

4. WE WILL INFORM YOU AS SOON AS WE HAVE CLEAR READING AS TO TIMING SECRETARY'S FIRST MEETING WITH ROMULO. FYI: AS OF NOW, IT WILL POSSIBLY OCCUR ON SEPTEMBER 28 IN NEW YORK. END FYI.

5. I AM COMMUNICATING WITH SECRETARY AS TO HIS WISHES REGARDING YOUR COMING BACK AND WHEN, AND WILL BE IN TOUCH. ROBINSON

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